

# OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Next Meeting September 14

Lorna Campbell, KA7RFD, Editor

## The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club Welcomes You To The 1988 ARRL National Convention

As one of the sponsoring Clubs of the 1988 ARRL National Convention, OTVARC's members welcome you to the beautiful "City of Roses". If we can do anything to make your stay more pleasant or if we can answer any questions about our Club, we would be happy to help.

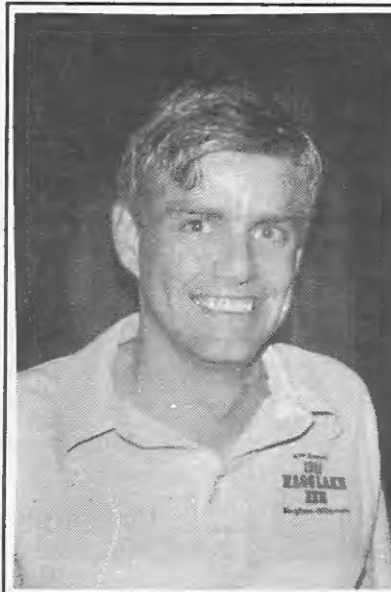
We would also like to remind you that SEA-PAC will be back in 1989. Please mark the dates of June 2, 3 and 4 on your calendars. OTVARC will be the only sponsor of SEA-PAC '89. We hope to see you in Seaside.

The spotlight this month shines on Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH, recently appointed co-chairman of the 1989 SEA-PAC Convention.

Jim's interest in Ham Radio started in Junior High School and he held the Novice call of WN7CHH. He recalls as a teenager listening on a Philco upright radio to short wave and the 40 and 80 bands. His big thrill last year when he obtained his General license was finally checking in to the Oregon Emergency Net. Jim's interest in amateur radio lapsed during college and the next few years and it wasn't until he was Course Director, and a runner, for the Hood to Coast Relay three years ago that he realized the capabilities of ham radio. He's now very prominent in Public Service events.

### Spotlight On A Ham

Lorna, KA7RFD



Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH

Jim grew up in Oregon and graduated from Linfield College. Since leaving school he's been employed as a Purchasing Buyer for Sulzer Bingham Pumps. He's divorced and has a 12-year-old daughter, Jennifer, who lives in the Mid-west and frequently visits.

His main hobby is running and related pursuits. He's run everything from one mile track to the completion of two Marathons. He runs a minimum of 20 miles per week to a maximum of 70 when he's in training, as he is right now for the Hood to Coast Relay. He's a member of the Oregon Roadrunners Club and is, in fact, the Business Manager of their magazine.

He's very involved with volunteer work for the Doernbecher Childrens Hospital and is the Race Director for



the Lifeline Run held each year to raise money for Doernbecher. Additionally he's President of the Alumna Association for Linfield College.

Interest in ham radio is in two meters and 15 meters SSB. He says he feels like a new kid on the block and attended his first Field Day this year. Jim says his greatest interest is participating in the Public Service events and he has enjoyed meeting so many new people.

With a schedule like he has, it's hard to consider Jim will have time to take on the added responsibility of SEA-PAC. However, we know that this very competent and organized gentleman will do an excellent job.

## SEA-PAC IS BACK

Jim, KB7ADH



After a one year "vacation" to make way for the 1988 National Convention, SEA-PAC, the Seaside/Pacific Ham Convention will be back in 1989. The Seaside Convention Center is reserved for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 2, 3 and 4. Planning for the Northwest's largest Ham Convention is under way.

In 1989 OTVARC will be the sole sponsor of SEA-PAC. The Northcoast Repeater Association has decided to discontinue their joint sponsorship. They have been very helpful in the past and have been very cooperative in setting SEA-PAC in motion for 1989.

With the approval of the OTVARC Board, Randy, KZ7T and I have agreed to be Co-Chairmen of the Convention. The Convention Committee has been meeting since July; setting up an organizational structure and identifying the multitude of tasks which need to be completed by June 2. There are



Exhibit Hall SEA-PAC '87

new faces on the Committee this year. The members are Van, KE7BB; Mark, N7CRQ and Ken, WR7D. In addition, Sue, N7EPE and Lorna, KA7RFD have agreed to act as Treasurer and Registrar.

As with previous SEA-PAC Conventions, there will be forums/seminars, Ladies activities, commercial exhibits, more than 100 flea market tables, prize drawings, VE testing, a banquet and, of course, the unmatched atmosphere of Seaside and the Oregon coastline.

There will be plenty of opportunities for every member of OTVARC to participate. It will take many committed volunteers to continue in 1989 the quality and success of previous SEA-PAC Conventions.

During the months between now and June, please contact any of the Committee members with your suggestions and ideas.

Now go mark "June 2, 3 and 4 SEA-PAC" on your 1989 calendar: SEA-PAC IS BACK!

## Heard Around The Club

Lorna, KA7RFD

What is happening? Why are so many people leaving? Jeff, K7JF has accepted a position with Nalley's in Tacoma. He'll finish his tenure as our Club Secretary and will be commuting at weekends until a new home is found in Tacoma and the house is sold here when Amy, N7HJD and the family will be joining him.

Martin, N7CYG and Teresa, N7JXZ headed to Southern California to live. Martin grew up there and wants to get back to the sunshine. Then we have Stan, KX7Y giving up his law practice here to become a computer programmer in Phoenix, Arizona.

Our best wishes to all of you. Keep in touch and come and see us some time. You all will be missed.

Wishes for a speedy recovery to Rose, N7DZB, wife of Chuck, N7DZA, who is doing well after recent major surgery.

Our condolences to George, KD7GJ, who recently lost his wife after a long illness.

Tony, KA7ZDE and Bobbi just back from a trip to California and a four day Paper Chasers 10-10 Convention in Reno. They had a great time.

Congratulations to Joan with a new call of N7LMK (lots more kisses) and Ken now WR7D.



# Message Handling Try It, You'll Like It

Dale, W7FBP

A recent survey of hams in the Portland Metro area concerning message handling has revealed some interesting information. It was found that most hams (over 55%) have never handled any ARRL formatted messages.

Over 70% of the surveyed hams stated they couldn't remember how to make up a message in the proper format. More than half of these said they didn't know where to find the proper message format.

Almost 50% said they wouldn't know what frequency or net to check into to relay a message.

Only 25% of those surveyed said they would feel comfortable accepting a message for relay or delivery.

Makes you wonder, doesn't it, if a lot of hams are forgetting that Public Service is one of our most important activities.

Well, maybe not. During the survey, I got the distinct impression that most hams would like to handle traffic, but they just didn't know how to get started, or where to learn the procedures and message format. Also, they didn't know how to call up a message recipient and deliver a message.

Handling messages is hard work sometimes, but when you call someone up and deliver a message from a loved one, the thanks and appreciation you receive are well worth it.

OK, so you want to give it a try!

Well, first you'll have to spend fifty cents for a manual and twenty five cents on a stamp - still with me?

As with most activities in Hamland, someone has already done the hard work of writing down and publishing what we need to know. Send that fifty cents to ARRL and tell them you want a copy of "OPERATING AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION".

The manual stock number is CD-4(6-84). It is filled with goodies from "Calling CQ" to "Time Conversions". Section III includes everything you've always wanted to know about handling messages.

If you'd rather not make out a check for fifty cents, contact me or Lorna, KA7RFD at the next meeting and get on a list for ordering a batch of manuals.

More "how to" articles can be written if any interest in handling traffic is shown.

Remember, another survey will be held sometime in the future - wouldn't you feel better if you could answer YES to the questions?

# Social Committee Report

Pat, KA7UFG, Marvel, KA7TZT, and Bobbi

The Yard Sale was a HUGE success thanks to all your donations and the help of many volunteers. We are proud to announce the Club made over \$330. We should have a great Christmas party on Saturday, December 3. Our thanks to everyone who helped us.

Don't forget the Club Dineout in October. Details will be forthcoming at a meeting soon.

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# Public Service

Randy, KZ7T

We are in the busy time for Public Service. We had the MS150 in July, which was a two day event.

In August we will have three events. The first was the Black Powder Shoot. We are out there for any emergencies such as injuries to the shooters and grass fires. The black powder guns have a tendency to start grass fires because the cloth packing which prevents the ball from falling out, will shoot out 10 to 15 feet in front of the gun.

I would like to thank Susan, N7EPE; Jim AE7W; Rick, KA5OLH; Joan, N7LMK; Geno, KA7KBH and Bud, KC7PS for helping me on this event.



**The Crew At Hagg Lake Triathlon**

Next was Hagg Lake Triathlon. This is one of the events where you have to get up at 4:30AM to get to the start in time, so it makes for a long day. We always plan a potluck picnic down by the lake after this event, which makes it very enjoyable. I would like to thank Bud, KC7PS; Mike, KE7HS; Bill, WC7P; Rick, KA5OLH; Joan, N7LMK; Jim, AE7W; Roy, N7DUJ; Jim, KB7ADH and John, NB7Whiskey for helping me on this one.



**John, NB7W**

The next event is the Hood to Coast Relay and that goes on for 30 continuous hours. Most hams work from 10 to 16 hours and a few of us work a little longer. It starts at 6PM Friday and the course is closed at Midnight Saturday. There are 49 hams working this run. I'll give you all the gory details in next month's issue.

## Words From The President

Roger, K7RXV

Even though it seems early, it is again time to think about Club Officers for next year. As directed by the Constitution, the Board has appointed a Nominating Committee. The members are Randy Cobb, WN7W, Chairman and the following members Roy Nunley, N7DUJ, Jeff Freedman, K7JF and Stan Griffiths, W7NI. The Committee is directed by the Club Constitution to nominate at least one candidate for each officer position. Additional nominations shall be entertained from the floor at the November regular club meeting.

The club officers consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five Trustees. To be a club officer, you must be a member in good standing and be validly licensed as an amateur radio operator. The election is by secret ballot. The ballots are to be mailed before December 1. The ballots may be returned by mail or at the beginning of the December regular club meeting.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be a club officer, please contact Randy, WN7W. However, make sure that you have permission from the person you would like to have nominated.

The Board has started a process to form a statement of corporate intent and a long range plan for the Club. If any members have any input on this item, please call me or any other Board member with your suggestions so that we as a Board don't overlook or inadvertently omit any pertinent input. This is vitally important at this time because of the size that we have become and it is imperative that we have a clear idea of where we are going in the future.

The next big event is the National Convention in September - I hope to see you there.

### NW Repeater Association

The Northcoast Repeater Association invites all OTVARC members to their annual picnic at the south end of Cullaby Lake on Saturday, September 3. Families and friends are welcome. Bring your own picnic lunch and the festivities begin around Noon.

# How Not To Fry NiCads

Roger, K7RXV

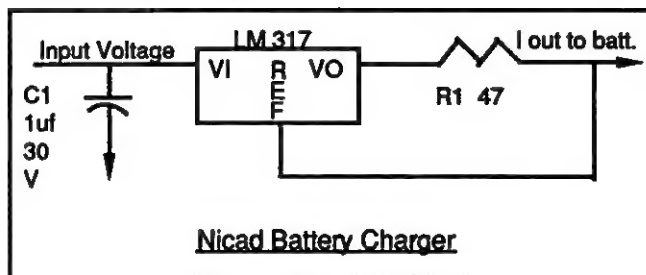
One of the main reasons for short battery life from the nicad batteries used by todays current handhelds is overcharging. Many of the wall chargers supplied with handhelds charge at several times the recommended slow charge rate for the batteries. For example the charger supplied with the BP3 battery pack used by ICOM puts out approximately 40 ma with the normal 120VAC line present in most homes. The power company will let the line voltage go as high as 125 volts which will make the problem even worse with these unregulated charges.

For maximum life the nicad manufactures recommend charging the cells at no more than a C/10 rate where C is the cell capacity in ampere hours. For example the 250 ma cells used in the BP3 battery pack this would be a maximum charge rate of 25 ma. This will be even more detrimental to the cells if the battery is left on charge for more than the recommended 16 hours. To overcome this limitation we should only charge the batteries with a current regulated charger. Fortunately the circuit necessary to do this is very simple only requiring three parts and a DC power supply 3 to 5 volts more than the fully charged voltage of the pack. Most of the smaller batteries use a 7 cell pack and each cell has a full charge voltage of 1.45 volts. This means the full charge voltage of the pack is 10.15 volts. Therefore the DC power supply would have to be between 13.15 volts and 16.15 volts. The nominal voltage of most power supplies used to run the 12 volt radios designed for use in vehicles is 13.8 volts (the nominal system voltage for cars with 12 volt electrical systems). This allows us to charge our battery packs from the same power supplies that we run other radios from.

## Circuit Operation:

U1 LM 317 is a programmable three terminal regulator. The output terminal is regulated to 1.2 volts  $\pm$  5% above the control terminal. We can make use of this by adding a resistor in the output lead and connecting the control terminal to the load side of the resistor. We then adjust the value of the resistor so that the voltage drop across the resistor will be 1.2 volts when the desired current is flowing through it. Use the formula  $R = 1.2/C$  where C is the desired charge current (the battery capacity divided by 10). For example the R value for 25ma is 48 ohms. (Use the nearest standard 5% value or 47

ohms). The other thing we need to know about this resistor is how many watts should it be. Using the formula  $P = EI$  (P is in watts, E is volts across the resistor, 1.2 in this case, and I is the charge current in amps) the power dissipated in this resistor is 30 milliwatts. We should use a resistor of at least twice this dissipation capacity for reliability (60 mw) so we can use a 1/4 watt resistor which is cheaply available. There are 2 types of 317 normally available the 317T and the 317L. The 317T can handle more power and should be used for reliability reasons unless space is a problem in which case a 317L might work if you are careful about power dissipation ratings.



## But Will It Float?

Bill, WC7P and Elaine, KB7ANT

At the May 1987 meeting we talked about the wooden boat that we are building. Well, it's about as ready as it will be, so it must be time to say goodbye (temporarily) to our OTVARC friends.

We will have an Open Boat at the building site September 11 from 1300 to 1600 local time. All members and their families are welcome.

How to get there. The address at the building site (barn) is 21000 N.W. Quatama Street, Aloha.

To find it, come down Baseline to 216th and turn north. Quatama is the only cross street until 216th turns into Cornelius Pass Road.

If you come in from Sunset Highway, come south on Cornelius Pass Road and keep straight on until it becomes 216th.

From TV Highway, turn on 219th which turns into 216th at Baseline. Once you have turned east on Quatama, there is only one big old dairy barn in sight.

Other news. Late in September we and the boat will move to Port Townsend. Sometime later (October) we will launch. As soon as that happens we will be able to get back on the air and check in with folks here. When that happens we will put a note in the newsletter as to a schedule time and frequency.



# DX For Beginners And Others

Greg, W7AGQ

My DXing is still on hold for a while. By the time you read this though, I'll probably have a dipole up for 75 meters (not your red hot DX band but I can talk with my Dad in Southern Oregon). By up I mean all of about 20 feet off the ground.

This all brings me to the subject of what equipment you have to have to be a "DXer". I think the answer is...whatever you have at the moment. Certainly all of us could hope for the latest rig, a big linear and monoband beams up over 100 feet. Most of us, however, fall considerably short of that goal. The point is, do the best you can with what you have. DXers with low power and a dipole have made the DXCC Honor Roll. It just takes longer and requires the best of techniques.

Attitude is very important in the DX game. You may come upon a pile-up and be scared out because you don't have the latest equipment. That is one way to guarantee you won't work the station. I am not advocating wading right in with blind calls. If you have the attitude that you should be able to work the DX station you can then find a way. In fact, most DXers feel they "deserve" to work all the DX on the air and probably some that isn't.

Remember the cardinal DX rule: Listen, listen and listen. First of all can you even hear the DX station? Often the pile-up you are hearing is just East Coast hams working into Europe, Africa or the Middle East before we have propagation out here. Especially if you have marginal equipment, you need propagation in your favor. If you are not hearing the DX station strongly, chances are very good he won't hear you any better. In fact, he's just one station. You are just one of many.

If you can hear the station pretty well, analyze. Who is he working and why. If he or she is working by call districts, respect that. Some folks who have out-of-district call (W1XXX who may live in Oregon in the 7th District) have been heard to call when the station is looking for W1s and again when he stands by for W7s (this time signing "Portable 7"). Whether or not this is ethical I leave for you or DX policemen.

Listen and determine if the station is working tail-enders, that is some one calling just after the U.S. station has passed the report but is still talking. If so, join the crowd. Some DX stations

work stations just above or below their frequency...not really split frequency operation but maybe using a RIT (receive incremental tuning). Here the DX station just listens a bit up or down when the QRM is less. The object of the game is to work the station so you might as well transmit where he's listening.

Another technique to get through when others can't is to match the QSB. Many times you will note that the DX signal appears to get louder and then softer and then louder again. That's QSB and it can work for you. Often signals from your area will be doing the same thing to him. If you call when the signals peak you may get through when the big guns can't understand why they can't. It's just a matter of giving yourself all the advantage you can. I'd rather have good propagation and a small station than poor propagation and a giant rig any day. Of course, I'd rather have both given the choice.

If you listen a lot, you'll be able to determine some patterns of when DX stations come on. If you're there when the station first comes on what a difference that can make. I have only worked one YA (Afghanistan) but I happened to hear someone tuning up. I listened and sure enough it was super DX. I called and said his signal was fine and we had a nice chat with no QRM for a few minutes. By the time I signed all hell broke loose. It seemed every ham in the call book was calling him.

Another way to get help is from a DX newsletter like that one I take, the DX BULLETIN. I can read where the DX is currently operating and often what time they are coming on and on what frequency. Yes many others read the newsletter too but the more information you have the better off you'll be. In fact, this brings us back to the beginning of this column...attitude. The more information you have, the better attitude you'll have. Soon you will actually know that you too "deserve" to work that station.

73 (and 88 where appropriate).

## Volunteers Needed

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# The Extra Class Novice

Ken, WR7D

The most interesting development this month is the application of a novel form of speech processing to Ham Radio. This even eclipsed the arrival of my new call sign, which I have finally gotten used to. My first test of this modulation was on 2 meters and resulted in uncontrollable, raucous laughter for all. Everyone concurred that the pileups are the place for it and would be no match for this.

Now that your curiosity has peaked it is with great reluctance that I make this discovery public. It is Helium Modulation Of The Vocal Chords. The DX will certainly have to authenticate the source of this dialect to determine if some strange animal has obtained a ham ticket.

There is a small drawback with this form of processing you should know about. Helium is an inert gas and by itself does nothing. However it does displace oxygen and you can become dizzy if you do it too often. So use temperance and moderation when attempting this. I will be picking up a tank and will let you know how it works later.

My shack is about full now and when choosing my equipment I decided to go state of the art all the way. It's a dream station missing only the metal in the sky. I currently have only a Hustler 5 band vertical for HF that seems to work well only on 20 meters where the SWR is low throughout the band. This should all improve measurably in the near future, I hope.

Aside from wondering if my RF is leaving my property at times that's about it for now 73 and we'll see what next month brings.

## OTVARC Travelers Going Strong

Tony, KA7ZDE

The RV group has been averaging 15 rigs at each campout. Over 60 people were fed at the hamburger feed at Detroit Lake the weekend of July 16th. The weather has been decent and we've been having a great time.

A full schedule of the planned campouts was published in the July Newsletter. Remember all are welcome including tenters. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

### Next Club Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 14

Unfortunately the speaker our V.P. had lined up for our next meeting had to cancel the night before John, K7SHC left for vacation. He will give the program at a later date.

So at press time, we have no details of the September meeting. Maybe it's time for a social evening. After all it will be a wonderful opportunity to swap yarns and lies about the National Convention.

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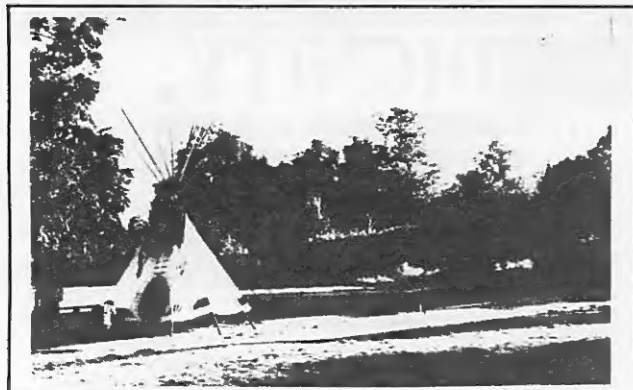
## More Field Day '88 Photos



Willis, N7DZR Came By Bicycle



Randy, WN7W Came By Motorcycle



And They All Lived In KA7RNN's Teepee

### VE Testing At National Convention

VE exams will be given at 9AM and 1PM sharp on Saturday, September 10 in the Willamette Room of the Red Lion Motor Inn at Jantzen Beach. Examinees are not required to register at the Convention.

Walk-ins on a space available basis will be accepted at ONLY the 1PM test. The cut-off date for pre-registration was August 10.

As usual bring your Original license plus a photocopy and Original Certificate if you have one and I.D. with a picture. Checks for \$4.55 should be made payable to NORTHWEST AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL VE COMMITTEE.

## Lorna's Lookout

Lorna, KA7RFD

For those of you reading our Newsletter for the first time and unfamiliar with our Club, let's tell you a little about ourselves.

We've been accused of being cliquey. The dictionary defines a clique as "a small exclusive social coterie". I prefer to define it as a circle of friendship. Sure, we're cliquey. We have over 200 members with very divergent interests. Our Club meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, but almost every night of the week there is some splinter group meeting to plan, or plot, or learn something new.

Hams who have been members since OTVARC's inception, have shared the triumphs and tragedies of their personal lives over the last ten years. Certainly there is a camaraderie there, but they'll welcome you at the next meeting and listen to your input and suggestions.

But it's not the Club meeting with 100 present where you get to make the friendships. It's much more likely to happen as two of you sit in a tent all night calling "CQ Field Day" or five of you giggle your way through the night after a Public Service event in a trailer designed to sleep two.

About two years ago we talked about starting an RV Group and nothing happened, then a newer member stood up one night and said he and his wife were taking their trailer to the coast the next weekend if anyone would care to join them. The OTVARC Travelers were born. At the July campout, 60 people were present for the Saturday evening feed.

A member, who six months ago was not a member and didn't even have a license, is now the Assistant Newsletter Editor and is a Committee Chairman for SEA-PAC '89.

We are very community minded. Members teach Amateur Radio Classes at P.C.C., are involved with the Volunteer Examination program, use their Ham Radio expertise in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol, have helped with emergency communications during the forest fires in Southern Oregon last year. The Seaside Chamber of Commerce estimates that one and a half million dollars are pumped into their community during the three day SEA-PAC convention.

Then, of course, there are the numerous Public Service events. Three years ago at the Hood to Coast relay, about 10 hams were assisting. This year there are 49 (no, not all OTVARC members) and four

*Continued Next Page*



days before the event, offers are still coming in to help.

We have members who work on our Technical Committee, Contest Committee, Field Day Committee and Project Night. There's always someone willing to share their knowledge, whether it's putting up your first antenna or getting your Packet system running. Other members can share their DX experiences and help you to get through that pile up. If there isn't a splinter group for your main interest, we encourage you to start one.

Don't think it's all work. We also have an excellent social committee who organize meals for Field Day, dinners-out and the Christmas party among other things.

We'd love to have you take the first step and come to our next meeting. Get involved and soon you'll be wishing there were more nights in the week so you could participate in more events.



But Will It Fit? WR7D, KA7RFD At Work On Newsletter

## Temporary Amateur Service Third-Party Arrangement With Korea

The FCC has received information that the Government of the Republic of Korea has authorized amateur station 6K24SO to exchange third-party messages for athletes and members of the United States Olympic Team with amateur stations in the United States during the period beginning 0001 UTC September 1, 1988 and ending 2400 UTC October 5, 1988.

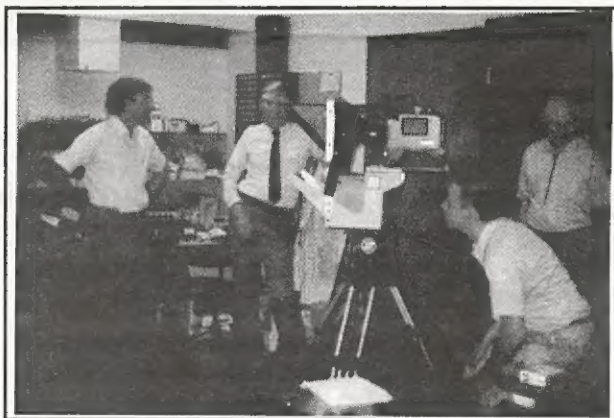
Accordingly, the Commission has no objection to amateur stations exchanging such third-party messages with amateur station 6K24SO during that time period.

## FCC Allocates Spectrum In The 216-225 MHz Band Three Ways

The Commission on August 4, 1988 divided allocation of the 216-225 MHz band three ways. By its action, the Commission:

1. maintained the maritime mobile allocation in the 216-220 MHz band;
2. allocated the 220-222 MHz band to the land mobile service; and
3. allocated the 222-225 MHz band to the amateur service for exclusive use.

A variety of factors were considered in making these allocations, including the need to provide for narrowband land mobile operations, the impact on the amateur use of the 220-225 MHz band and the potential interference to TV broadcasting, as well as the actions taken in the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC). As a result of the 1979 WARC, the amateurs have received several new frequency allocations.



What are those crazy sounding signals saying? Ernie, WA7AXJ, prepares to tape his presentation for the National Convention.

Video experts are Bob, W7JNC and Everett, WA7CYP from KATU. Also shown, Bill, N7GRO.

The presentation was filmed at Dee's plant, KA7NPN.

The OTVARC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc. The opinions, views and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, its officers, advertisers or Newsletter Committee.

Articles may be submitted to: Lorna Cambell, KA7RFD, Editor, 9890 S.W. Inglewood, Portland, Oregon 97225.

Cutoff date for all newsletter material is the 20th of the preceding month. Dues for OTVARC membership are \$10.00 per year and are prorated quarterly. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$2.00. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge, 3500 S.W. 104th Avenue and start at 7PM. A buffet dinner is served at 6:15PM.

All correspondence other than for this newsletter should be sent to: Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Post Office Box 25545, Portland, Oregon 97225-0545.



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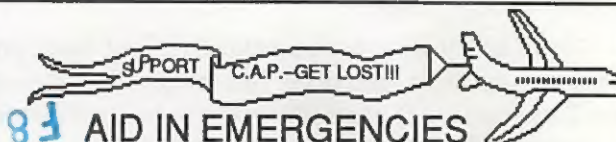
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